

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/512,884
Amendment dated December 17, 2003
Reply to OA of **September 8, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **September 8, 2003**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the preamble of claim 1 is unclear whether an electronic apparatus or an input device is being claimed. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claim 1 has been amended.

Further, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear whether the supporting member of claim 3 and the engaging member of claim 5 are part of retaining member of claim 1. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claims 3 and 5 have been amended.

Still further, the Examiner asserts that it is not possible to have a main unit rotatably attached to a main unit in claim 7. Claim 7 is amended to indicate that a display unit is rotatably attached to a main unit.

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Still further, the Examiner asserts that claim is unclear since it does not indicate from what the supporting member is lowered. Taking the Examiner's comments into consideration, claim 8 has been amended.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427).

The applicant's present invention is a device for storing a keyboard (16) between a main unit (14) and a display unit (12) when not in use. A supporting member (20) having an engaging portion (20b) is utilized in an embodiment to support the keyboard (16) while not in use. Utilizing the present invention, it is possible to save space on a surface when the keyboard (16) is not in use.

Clancey et al. is a portable computer (12) with a tiltable keyboard (10). A latch member (76) is used to release a pawl member (80) which lifts the keyboard (10) through the action of a spring (84). The keyboard (10) remains attached and pivots about pivot pin (46).

In Clancy et al. (USP 5,168, 427) , although a keyboard 10 is provided at a place between a main unit 14 and a display unit 32, the keyboard 10 cannot be detached from the main board 14. Therefore, the keyboard 10 is always provided the place between the main unit 14 and the display unit 32.

On the other hand, in the present invention, when a keyboard 16 is not used, the keyboard is provided at a space formed between a display unit 12 and a main unit 14. See FIGS. 4A and 4B and page 11 line 26 through page 12 line 14 of the specification. When the keyboard 16 is used, the keyboard 16 is removed from the above mentioned space. See FIGS. 5A and 5B and page 12 lines 15-30.

Therefore, claims 1, 7 and 8 patentably distinguish over the prior art relied upon by reciting, as exemplified by claim 1,

“An electronic apparatus to which an input device is connected, comprising: a main unit; a display unit rotatably attached to the main unit; and a retaining mechanism retaining at least one portion of the input device into a space which is formed by between the display unit and the main unit when the input device is not used, wherein the input device is removable from the space.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-5 and 7-8 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427) in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,716).

Kimura et al. describes a portable computer system with a detachable keyboard in which a link unit (117) serves to link the main or system unit (10) and a keyboard (100). Pushing the push-button (117a) of the link unit (117) against the spring (118) causes the keyboard (100) to be detached

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from the system unit (10). The display unit (30) may be opened and closed using a link mechanism (90) so that it folds against the system (10) and the keyboard (100) when closed and the keyboard (100) attached. An IR terminal (21) on the system unit (10) or the keyboard (100) is used for communications between the keyboard (100) and system (10) when the keyboard (100) is detached from the system unit (10). When the keyboard (100) is detached from the system unit (10), the system unit (10) acts as a base on which the display (30) may be swung back along the guide (91).

Claim 6 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clancy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,427) in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,716) is respectfully requested.

New Claim

New claim 9 is added to this application. New claim 9 finds support in the specification and the originally filed claims. New claim 9 is allowable for the same reasons supplied for claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1, 3, 7 and 8, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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